Cindy Hill, Superintendent of Public Instruction



Wyoming Department of Education

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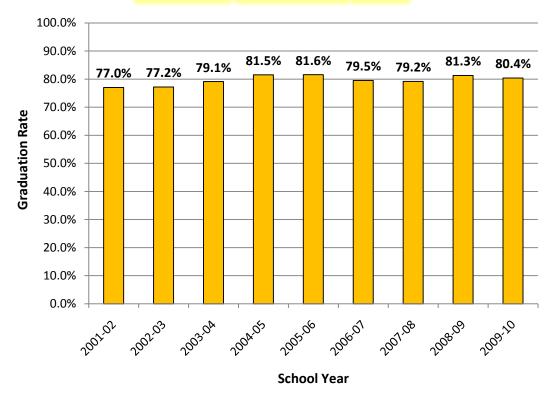
Graduation Rates: Wyoming's Class of 2010 and Beyond

Using a new methodology established by the United States Department of Education, the Wyoming Department of Education's Federal Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate, or "on-time" graduation rate, is 80.4% for the class of 2010.

The shift to the new graduation rate is required in order to comply with the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The formula and methodology are similar to the standards set by the National Governors Association in their "Graduation Counts Compact". This new federal methodology requires all states to account for students using the same criteria, and use the same graduation rate calculation to ensure comparability across states.

The Wyoming Department of Education applauds every effort to give students options and help them succeed. We also understand that many successful students take more than four years to graduate. Because of this, the WDE will calculate five-year and six-year graduation rates to provide a more complete picture of student outcomes. Based on availability of underlying source data, these extended year rates will first be available beginning with a five-year graduation rate for the class of 2010 to be published during the 2011-12 school year.

Wyoming State Level Historical Graduation Rates



Federal Adequate Yearly Progress Graduation Rate Goal

The Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Graduation Rate goal approved by the United States Department of Education, as included in Wyoming's Accountability Workbook, is:

AYP Goal School Year	Graduation Rate
2001 to 2012	80%
2013 and beyond	85%

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Federal Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate

Student Tracking and Graduation Rate Calculation Process

What is a graduation cohort?

A graduation cohort is a group of students who begin as first-time 9th graders in a particular school year and who graduate with a regular high school diploma in four years or less.

When a student transfers into a school, to which cohort is the student assigned?

A student who transfers into a school is required to be assigned to the cohort in which the student started 9th grade for the first time, even where this event occurred in a different district or school.

How is a cohort "adjusted"?

A cohort is "adjusted" by adding any students transferring into a cohort in a school and by subtracting any students who transfer out or are otherwise allowed to be removed from the cohort (see details below).

Students entering a **Graduation Cohort:**

- 1) Promoted from 8th to 9th grade
- 2) Transferring into the Wyoming public school system in any high school grade (9 to 12)

Transfers In



Students Exiting a Graduation Cohort:

- On-Time Graduates (diploma recipients)
- Non-On-Time Graduates
- Removed from Cohort

Wvoming Public **Elementary and** Middle Schools **Promoted**

Removed from Cohort:

Students are not counted in a school's graduation rate when exiting before the end of their four years of expected enrollment in high school grades (9 to 12) for any of the following reasons, but only when districts obtain documentation required by federal regulation:

- 1) Transferred to a home school curriculum or another diploma granting high school
- 2) Moved out of the country
- Died

Four-Year (On-Time) Graduation Rate Calculation

On-Time Graduates: 17 Students Non-On-Time Graduates: 3 Students

Expected On-Time Graduates: 20 Students

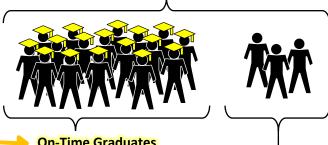
On-Time Graduation Rate =

On-Time Graduates

Expected On-Time Graduates

On-Time Graduation Rate = $\frac{17}{20}$ = 85%

Expected On-Time Graduates



On-Time Graduates

Non-On-Time Graduates:

Students counted as not graduating in four years may have:

- 1) Dropped out, been rumored to transfer (no written confirmation), or left for reasons unknown by the school
- 2) Left school to participate in a non-high school diploma granting educational or trade program (including GED)
- 3) Attended high school grades (9-12) for 4 full years without graduating (may still be seeking a diploma in 5 or 6 years)

What about Five-Year and Six-Year Graduation Rates?

In the example above, if one of the three Non-On-Time Graduates does graduate in five years, the Five-Year Graduation Rate for this cohort will be 18/20 = 90% (assuming no new additions to or removals from the cohort). Extended year rates will be published.